

House Republican Press Release

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Sawyer Participates in Andover Lake Ice Rescue Drill



HARTFORD- Representative Pamela Z. Sawyer took part in an ice rescue drill, which took place on February 6th, 2005, on Andover Lake. The Andover Volunteer Fire Department arranged for the drill with the Andover Lake Property Owners Association, and was attended by Dianne Grenier, who is chief instructor of the

Connecticut Aquatic Resources Education (CARE) program for the State Department of Environmental Protection in the Andover area. According to Grenier, last January she instructed an ice fishing clinic, which generated a great deal of interest. The next step was to have a preparatory ice rescue drill. She invited Representative Sawyer to participate.

A triangular hole, seven feet on each side, was cut into the ice, which was ten inches thick. Members of the tolland Dive Team took turns doing diving drills in the thirty-six degree water. The three scuba divers each spent ten minutes under the ice.

Representative Sawyer, who is a certified diver, participated in a drill with an ice rescue sled, which is used to transport victims from the water across ice to safety. She also participated in an open water drill, floating in an ice water diving suit.

“This was great, and all the participants had a wonderful time,” said Grenier. “We learned so much that we could use in future classes we conduct in the area.”

“I was thrilled to be a part of this safety drill,” said Representative Sawyer. “All of the participants did a terrific job in carrying out this drill, and honing life-saving skills which would be indispensable in the event of an actual emergency rescue that needed to be carried out on the ice. The volunteers donate tremendous amounts of time and energy in preparedness training. It’s impressive.”



Representative Sawyer participates in an ice rescue drill on Andover Lake.